



FOUNDATION FOR  
ADVANCING ALCOHOL  
RESPONSIBILITY

February 23, 2017

Ralph S. Blackman  
*President & CEO*

The Honorable Sean Scanlon  
Committee on Insurance and Real Estate, Chair  
Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Avenue, Room 2802  
Hartford, CT 06106

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Dear Chairman Scanlon,

The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility (Responsibility.org) is a national not-for-profit that leads the fight to eliminate drunk driving and underage drinking and promotes responsible decision-making regarding beverage alcohol. We are funded by Bacardi U.S.A., Inc.; Beam Suntory; Brown-Forman; Constellation Brands, Inc.; DIAGEO; Edrington; Hood River Distillers, Inc.; and Pernod Ricard USA. For more than 25 years, Responsibility.org has transformed countless lives through programs that bring individuals, families, and communities together to guide a lifetime of conversations around alcohol responsibility and has offered proven strategies to stop impaired driving. To learn more, visit [www.responsibility.org](http://www.responsibility.org).

The choice to drink responsibly includes education, planning ahead, as well as understanding the negative consequences that can result from unsafe and irresponsible decisions. The safest decision people can make is planning for a safe ride home. We support the use of public transportation, taxis and safe ride services. Ridesharing also offers another important and accessible transportation option for communities across the nation. The availability of a safe ride home is especially important at large events serving alcohol, such as concerts, sporting events, and conferences. According to Lyft, 88% of Lyft passengers say they are less likely to drive impaired due to ridesharing.

Today I am contacting you to urge your support for rideshare programs, such as Lyft and Uber, as another means to prevent impaired driving. We believe ridesharing is an important and innovative tool that increases the safety of our roads and decreases instances of driving under the influence. **Therefore, Responsibility.org encourages your fellow legislators to support your H.B. 7126 which authorizes rideshares and initiates a zero-tolerance policy for rideshare drivers.**

Several independent studies and government agency findings support ridesharing's effect that leads to a reduction in drunk driving.

- The growth of ridesharing services in a city significantly reduces fatal alcohol-related auto crashes. (*Driving Safety: An Empirical Analysis of Ridesharing's Impact on Drunk Driving and Alcohol-Related Crime*, Frank Martin-Buck, 2016)
- The rapid rise of app-based ridesharing in Virginia is one factor in a 22% decline in drunk driving deaths even as total traffic fatalities increased 7%. (*Virginia DMV, 2015*)

We urge you to enact comprehensive, common-sense ridesharing policies like those adopted in 38 other states already to bring these important safety benefits to all communities. If we can answer any questions or be helpful in any way, please contact Brandy Nannini, Vice President of Government Relations and Traffic Safety at 202-277-6233 or [brandy.nannini@responsibility.org](mailto:brandy.nannini@responsibility.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph S. Blackman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ralph S. Blackman  
President & CEO